GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2667
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
OPENING OF POST OFFICES
SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the lowest density of post offices and network of postal services in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is huge requirement of post offices in rural areas;

(d) if so, the reasons for not sanctioning new rural post offices in the country; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to open more post offices in the country particularly in Maharashtra?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SIKDAR)

(a) No Sir, India has the largest network of post offices in the world and density of post offices is also better than in many countries in the world.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) & (d): The opening of new post offices in the rural areas depends upon the fulfillment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

(e) During 2001-2002 a target to open 500 post offices has been fixed for rural areas in the country including 65 post offices in Maharashtra. The opening of these post offices is, however, subject to fulfillment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.